

CheeZie's opens in south Tulsa

By Tulsa Business Staff - 7/5/2010

Five weeks ago, Janet Henderson opened her own location of CheeZie's Pizza, a value pizza franchise product known for its \$4.99 large, one-topping pizza, at 61st Street and Peoria Avenue.

"I wanted to do something on my own, own my own business," said Henderson, who left a job she had for 25 years as a plant manager in Tulsa's aerospace industry.

The CheeZie's chain is operated by Tulsa-based J & H Foods, which also operates Simple Simon's Pizza.

The company is headquartered at 6650 S. Lewis Ave.

Henderson's son, Dustin Jones, operates five CheeZie's locations in the Tulsa area, and with his help, Henderson opened her own doors at 1104 E. 61st St.

"Management is the same no matter where you go," Henderson said. "What I like about this job is that I get to be hands-on with my customers every day. I get to see my customers come back to my restaurant because they liked my product. I get to get to know them as people."

CheeZie's offers a value-driven menu and takeout-only service with limited hours — her location opens every day at 3 p.m. and closes at 10:30 p.m., a few hours later than most CheeZie's locations — for a low-income demographic.

"And some people say I'm located in a rough area," Henderson said. "But, I love the hours, and I love the people. Plus, I'm not in this just to make money. I feel like I'm making a difference. Some of my workers were on the street before they had jobs here. One has even signed up to go back to school."

Henderson employs six at her Peoria CheeZie's.